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thysts and carnelian beads, *Kohl*-pots, paint-slabs, and mirrors, but no scrap of papyrus or wood, and no inscriptions to speak of. I have not finished the cemetery—too expensive along with other things I have to do. For the earliest cemetery here is the best.

To the north of the great wall, under the sand, are some mastabas of the time of Snefru, and inside the inclosure the mastabas continue, and with them small graves of the type Petrie has called Libyan and De Morgan Neolithic.

Besides the mastabas there are also "stairway" graves of the type I found at Ballas. All had been quite looted save one in which I got some gold and carnelian beads and two small gold nuggets! These must, by the pottery found with them, be attributed to the old empire, and form the *earliest jewelry found in Egypt*.

The burials in large pots of coarse earthenware such as were found at Ballas, and also, it is said, at Gizeh, occur also here. They too are of the old kingdom and must surely belong to a separate strain in the population. With one such burial I got a copper or bronze cylinder of Userkaf.

Do you remember a class of cylinders very thick compared with their length, inscribed with rough characters apparently not hieroglyphs? There are a lot of them at University College in London, for one place.

Do you remember, too, the little dolls, about six inches long, made in a yellowish ware and representing in a very rude style women, sometimes with babies on their backs?

Both of these classes of objects, I have now, I think, fixed to the Old Kingdom.

You will see we have not had bad luck. I fear Gizeh will take most of our prizes; but more than one little problem has been simply solved. The walls have disappointed me; I have not fixed their date. The interior of El Kab was never inhabited apparently, so we cannot get pottery near the walls. It is useless to attempt to tunnel beneath them. The gates have yielded no foundation deposit.

In the large temple I have not done much; merely tried for foundation deposits. They are of Amenhotep II.

I hope I will get off another epistle to you before long. This is a bad time for writing. In less than a fortnight I must be away. Yours sincerely,

J. E. QUIBELL.

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#### REORGANIZATION OF THE EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND IN AMERICA.

THE following action of the London Committee of the E. E. F. will show how timely has been the organization of the Chicago Society of Egyptian Research which is now one of the "independent organi-

zations" recognized in the first of the resolutions appended below. The accompanying admirable open letter of Mr. Petrie explains the practical possibilities of such independent societies all working in unison for the "Fund." We let his noble appeal speak for itself.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE LONDON COMMITTEE OF THE EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND, 6 APRIL, 1897.

1. That it is desirable to recognize independent organizations in America and to agree to such organizations having direct relations to the London Committee.
2. That an organization which shall have contributed on an average not less than \$750 per annum may, if desiring it, have a voice and a vote on the London Committee.

The representative will be coöpted by the London Committee on presenting his credentials; he will be changeable at pleasure of the nominating organization, and will be appointed without limitation of nationality or of existing relation to the E. E. F.

3. That each contributory organization (whether taking advantage of clause 2 or not) shall supply a statement of the number of its actual subscribers each year when remitting funds, shall receive a corresponding number of all publications of works issued to subscribers for the time being (but not exceeding one copy for each \$5 received in London) and shall be responsible for the distribution of such publications. These conditions concerning publications of the Exploration Fund will equally apply to the separate work of the Archæological Survey. And each organization shall agree to place in public museums such antiquities as may be allotted to it in an equitable distribution.

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AN OPEN LETTER FROM PROFESSOR PETRIE.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON, W. C.

12 April, 1897.

MY DEAR FRIEND:—As I have been asked to say something definite regarding the middleman organizations between subscribers and excavators, I would place before you the following points, speaking from my own personal view.

As all of these organizations exist only to get the best results from a given expenditure in Egypt, we must look to the Egyptian side first.

The great advantages gained by pooling the work and proceeds of several excavations together, are sometimes forgotten.

1. The mass of duplicates that are generally found can be divided between several places, thus relieving any one place from an incubus of material.
2. There are much fewer chances of a blank year, and of losing interest and support.